GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:38
ANSWERED ON:02.03.2005
RURAL TELEPHONY
Singh Shri Rajiv Ranjan (Lalan);Suman Shri Ramji Lal

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the responsibility to set up telephone network in the rural areas has been assigned to the BSNL;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the share of public and private sector separately in the telephone network set up in the rural areas so far;

(d) whether there is long waiting list for telephone connections in the rural areas;

(e) if so, the number of person on the waiting list by the end of December, 2004, State-wise; and

(f) the target date fixed for providing telephone connections to these persons?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN)

(a) to (f): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (f) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 38 FOR 2ND MARCH, 2005 REGARDING RURAL TELEPHONY.

(a) & (b) Office of Administrator, Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) has been created to provide assistance for setting up of Village Public Telephones (VPTs) in the rural areas of the country. It has signed agreements with M/s. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) to provide VPTs in 66,822 unconnected villages in the country, excluding villages which are depopulated, naxalite/insurgency infested, having population of les than hundred persons and those lying in deep forest areas. The work is targeted to be completed in a phased manner by November, 2007.

(c) The share of Public and Private Sector in terms of number of Telephones is 99.5% and 0.5% respectively.

(d) & (e) Yes, Sir. The total waiting list in rural areas as on 31.12.2004 was 13,48,624. The Telecom circle-wise details are given in Annexure.

(f) Most of this wait list is likely to be covered within one year.

ANNEXURE

WAITING LIST IN RURAL AREAS AS ON 31.12.2004

S.NO.	TELECOM CIRCLE	WAITING LIST (RURAL) AS ON 31.12.2004
1.	ANDAMAN NICOBAR	566
2	ANDHRA PRADESH	24,675
3	ASSAM	14,700
4	BIHAR	86,452
5	CHHATTISGARH	2,178
6	GUJARAT	51,152
7	HARYANA	73,929
8	HIMACHAL PRADESH	42,627
9	JAMMU & KASHMIR	16,556
10	JHARKHAND	5,196
11	KARNATAKA	74,674
12	KERALA	3,62,254
13	MADHYA PRADESH	9,253
14	MAHARASHTRA	1,33,546
15	NORTH EAST-I	5,569

16	NORTH EAST-II	1,587
17	ORISSA	16,842
18	PUNJAB	41,580
19	RAJASTHAN	1,18,552
20	TAMIL NADU	62,784
21	UTTARANCHAL	2,658
22	UTTAR PRADESH (E)	70,002
23	UTTAR PRADESH (W)	22,609
24	WEST BENGAL	1,08,683

TOTAL	13,48,624